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T. CONRAD REEVES. M., R., C., S., ENG;
M., R., C., P., LOND:

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER F. KEANEH.

FOR 1920.

TO the Chairman and Members of the Bollington Urban District Council.

MR CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you for the first time, for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the district for the past year.

It is not as complete as I should like, as I can only be exact for the last 9 months of the year.

The Urban District of Bollington, as you know, comprises some 1291 acres and is situated in a valley and on its adjacent hill sides on the westerly edge of the East Cheshire range of hills.

It is distant about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a North-Westerly direction from the Borough of Macclesfield. It is also some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town of Stockport and 17 miles from the City of Manchester.

The valley forms a natural cul-de-sac a little off the Manchester to Macclesfield Main Road.

The district is a bracing and healthy one, and has excellent sites for residential property on its hill sides.

The Character of the soil and sub-soil varies greatly, speaking generally it is sandstone with some coal measures.

The staple industry of the place is the Cotton trade. The village has 3 mills engaged in Fine Cotton Spinning, and one in Calico Printing, whilst just outside its boundaries is a large Calico Bleaching and Finishing Works. A Paper Staining firm, also Roper and Twine firm and Electric Bulb Manufactory have Works in the village. All these works find indoor employment for a large number of the inhabitants.

Outdoor employment is to be had in the Stone Quarries which abound in the neighbourhood, and also in the fire-clay works and Coal pits situate in Pott Shrigley, a little over a mile away.

These different occupations which are followed by the inhabitants would appear to be of a healthy character. Mill life in a Country district such as this is devoid of a great many of the more harmful influences associated with the same life in the larger cities and towns.

The amount of Poor Law Relief distributed in the district is not high, being £512 - 16 - 0 for last year, as compared with £336 - 0 - 0 in 1915.

Hospital and Gratuitous Medical Relief are well provided for at the General Infirmary, Macclesfield, and advantage of this is taken chiefly by cases requiring operations and other Institutional treatment.

I should like to record my appreciation of the very great kindness of the Committee and Medical and Nursing Staff of the Institution, and of their readiness to admit the cases sent to them from this district.

* for Bollington People

At the same time I should like to state that in a place the size of Bollington there should be a Cottage Hospital run by Bollington people. This question should receive very considerable thought in the near future when times are a little more normal.

POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT. The figures given to me for both Births and Deaths by the Registrar General is 5293.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered within the district during the year was 101.

The birth rate for the year is thus equivalent to one of 19.27 per 1,000.

Of the births 57 were males and 44 females.

There were 4 illegitimate births registered. The illegitimate birth rate is thus one of 59.6 per 1,000 registered.

DEATHS. There were registered as occurring within the district during the year 71 deaths according to the Registrar General's return to me. Giving a rate of 13.4 per 1,000. Of the total number of deaths 31 were males and 40 females.

Judging from reports I have seen the birth rate shows a slight increase and the death rate a slight decrease.

The Chief causes of Death are as follows :-

<u>CAUSES OF DEATHS.</u>	<u>NUMBER OF DEATHS.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis,	6.
Cancer.	3.
Organic Heart disease	11.
Bronchitis,	3.
Pneumonia.	2.
Appendicitis,	2.
Nephritis.	1.
Congenital Debility.	2.
Violence apart from Suicide.	4.
Other defined diseases.	20.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. - Six children belonging to the district died before attaining the age of 12 months. The Infantile Mortality rate for the year is thus one of 59.4 per 1000 births registered which shows a decided fall, with the exception of the years 1912 and 1914.

I should like to point out an error in the last report which gives the rate as 105 per 1,000, it should be 105 per 1,000 registered.

The causes of death in these cases were :-

1. from Premature Birth, 8 hours.
2. " Broncho Pneumonia and Heart failure.
3. " Bronchitis and Gastroenteritis, 10 months.
4. " Bronchitis and Inanition, 10 months.
5. " Spina Bifida, Convulsions
6. " Defective Development of Lower part of jaw.
7. " Defective Vitality - 6 hours.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

During 1920 there were notified the following:-

Diphtheria	8.
Scarlet Fever	13.
Pneumonia	9.
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1.
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	4.
Other forms	1.
Erysipelas	2.

15 of the cases were treated in the Macclesfield Borough Isolation Hospital.

The total cost of Maintenance and treatment of the 15 cases sent to the Isolation Hospital amounted to £ 237 = 15 = 0 .

Other fees paid to the Macclesfield Borough for Hospital account and Medical Officer's fee amounted to £ 75 - 13 - 4 .

Two beds in the small Pox Hospital and four ~~bed~~ beds in the Isolation Hospital are reserved by the Borough for the use of patients from the Urban District.

PUTUM EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL. Material such as blood, ~~urine~~ and throat swabs are sent either to the Lister Institute or to the Runcorn Laboratories for examination at the cost of the Council. In this way material from 21 patients has been examined during the year.

HOUSES. There are approximately 1250 houses in the district, the only vacant ones being 3 unlet shops with houses over.

The following are the particulars required by the Local Government Board under Article 5. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910:-

HOUSING.

1. Number of Houses built during 1920 none.
2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under S. 17 Act 1909. 26.
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation. none.
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority 22.
5. No. of closing Orders made by Local Authority none.
6. No. of defects remedied without closing orders being made. 2.
7. Number of houses where defects remedied after closing Orders made. none.
8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in S. 1 of Act 1909. 1136.
9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1920. 2.
10. Number of such Houses closed after notice. none.
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs etc. none.
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the District. 2.
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in the district. none.
14. What number of dwelling houses for the Working Classes has your Council decided are required under the recent Housing Act. 130.

SANITARY CONDITIONS. A Classified statement of the number and nature of the premises inspected is appended.

WATER SUPPLY. The water supply is obtained from two Works, Lowerhouse and Danebent, in the neighbouring township of Rainow some two or three Miles away. The supply is constant.

1. LOWERHOUSE - The water is obtained at these works from three boreholes and adits driven in the Millstone grit.

2. DANEVENT - The water at those works is also obtained from boring in the mill stone grit. When the supply at Lowerhouse fails, as it is apt to do in a long continued period of drought, the water is pumped from this borehole, Danebent, by an air lift pump, and delivered in to the distribution main by a force pump.

The supply is sufficient for the present needs of the district, but taking into consideration the number on conversions of privy middens that are absolutely necessary, also the additional number of houses that are to be provided (130) under the Housing Scheme, the supply will be inadequate.

The quality of the water whilst not being continuously polluted is at times liable to intermittent pollution, due no doubt to the number of farms which are situated in the Watershed. Pollution of this nature—that is intermittent in character—is generally admitted to be most dangerous. For some months past this has been engaging the most serious attention of the Council and a scheme is being prepared to increase the quantity, and at the same time to remove the pollution by installing a purification plant, on the Chlorination system.

In this matter the Council is being advised by H. Lapworth, Esq.; D.Sc; M.I.C.E., F.R.S., and a portion of his work will be carried out during the ensuing year.

SCHOOLS. There are 5 Public Elementary Schools in the district.

Notifications of cases of infection amongst the Scholars are sent by the Principal teachers to the Medical Officer of Health who visits the school and the homes of the children, and takes what action he considers advisable.

In this way the following closures have taken place. :-

Epidemic Church Infants May 21st to June 4th 1920., due to Epidemic of Measles.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The conditions of these remains much the same as last year. Such matter as waste from houses and trade effluent undoubtedly do still find their way into the River Dean. There has not, however, been any great complaint as to foul smells arising from it during any period of the year.

MILK SUPPLY. The Nuisance Inspector has visited the farms in the district, and is satisfied with the conditions found.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES Of which there are 4 registered in the district have been kept in good order. Two Carcasses of meat have been condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food during the year,

being undoubtedly Tubercular.

The Houses are chiefly ~~not~~ built of Stone and rubble and the greater part consist of four rooms—two down and two up.

The later built houses consist of six rooms, and in some cases there is a bathroom.

Plans of all houses proposed to be built are required to be submitted in duplicate to the Surveyor, who after examining them passes them on to the Council for acceptance or rejection as they are or are not in conformity with the Byelaws.

There are no houses let in lodgings in the district.

The following sections of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907 are in force in the district :—

15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30,
3, 32, 33; in Part II :— 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51; in Part III ;—
52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 67
In Part IV, and 68; Part VI and section 95 in Part X.

There has been no Town Planning Scheme put forward during 1920 for this district, or any part thereof.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :— The main sewer and outfall Works continue to work very satisfactorily. Samples of the effluent have proved to be one of the best of all under the control of the Mersey and Irwell Commissioners. The system of disposal is by coarse and fine filter beds and broad irrigation. It has not yet been found possible to extend the system to the few houses in the outlying highest districts, viz :— Long Lane and Windmill Lane.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. 14 Water Closets supplying 23 houses have been put in during the year. The total number of houses with Closets is thus 716.

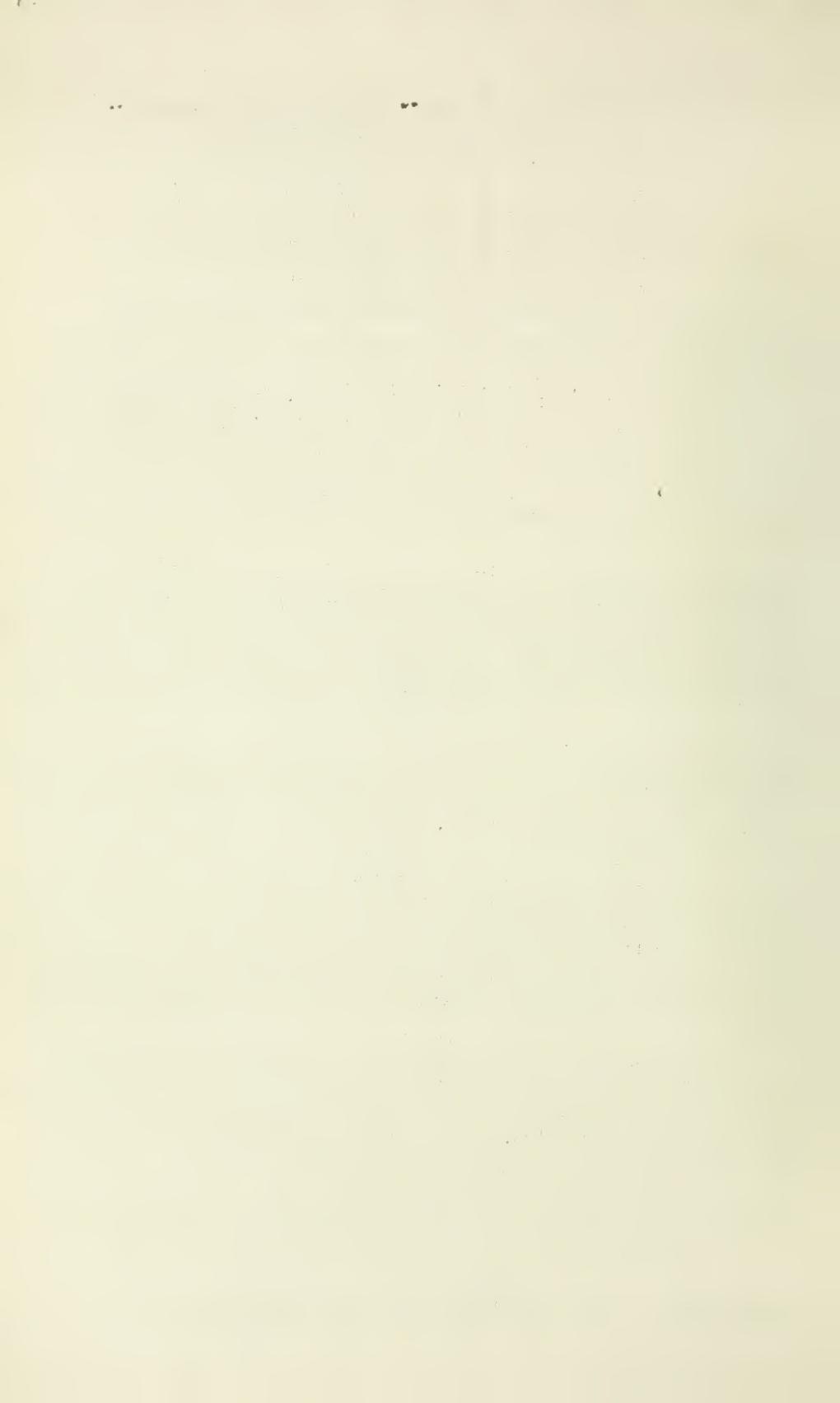
Dry Ashpits and Dustbins under cover have been provided for the houses mentioned above.

The work of conversion from privy middens to water closets and dry ashpits is exceedingly slow, made worse by the Great War, and the conditions which are now following. I must impress on the Council the absolute urgency of the matter and hope they will proceed with as little delay as possible. In the meantime I must say it is false economy on the part of the Council to cut down expenditure for emptying and cleansing the privies which still remain, to the low figure that is now in force.

This work is done as heretofore by the Council's men and the contents removed by the neighbouring farmers. With the latter difficulties mainly arise. With two different sets of workmen the question of convenience of time suitable to both has to be arranged and in this way undoubtedly some middens have not had their necessary share of attention. As there is a decreasing number of middens this matter ought to be capable of adjustment.

I draw attention to this matter not that the pressure exerted on the owners to convert into water closets and dry ashpits should be in any way abated, but to ameliorate the conditions of those who for the time being, have to be content with the old system.

should
HOUSE REFUSE. This ~~should~~ be carried out at more frequent intervals than I have noticed during the past year.



There are no obnoxious trades carried on in the
district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servt,

T. CONRAD REEVES

Medical Officer of Health.

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